

"4. There is nothing in the lepidosis of the head by which they can be considered distinct."

Again I quote Boulenger. "Frontal much longer than broad, as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout" and later "two superposed anterior temporals." In my description of *H. siamensis* I have given, "frontal as long as or shorter than its distance to the rostral" and "normally a single anterior temporal"; and in a series of 33 specimens the frontal is shorter than its distance to the rostral in 22, or 66 per cent. of them, and although a single anterior temporal appears to be normal, fragmentation of that shield on one or both sides occurs in 11, or 33 per cent., of the specimens. Such differences as these were they to be found only in one or two examples might be rightly viewed with suspicion, but where they are to be found frequently over a large series they are surely entitled to recognition.

"6. The dentition agrees with that of my Indian specimens and is as follows:—The postmaxillary teeth vary from 7 to 10 (Indian specimens 6 to 10)."

This is not in accordance with Col. Wall's previous remarks on *Cyanocinctus (antea, XXIII, 2, p. 375)*. There he says, the postmaxillary teeth are usually 7 in number, sometimes 6, in one 8. My 5 skulls of *Cyanocinctus* from this region agree entirely with his original figures, whereas in 6 skulls of *siamensis* the teeth are 8 and 9, in one doubtful 10.

Finally there is the question of length and colouration (7 and 8). The length of *siamensis* (my series includes 7 gravid females) does not exceed 1000 mm. *Cyanocinctus* on the other hand attains a much greater length. Boulenger gives it up to 1,500 mm., but my largest specimen measures 1,885 mm.

*Siamensis* is greenish-grey above, with dark grey complete bands. The head is dark grey or black, with yellow markings along the sides and across the snout. Both bands and yellow markings tend to disappear in old age. Of my 21 examples (adult and half grown) of *Cyanocinctus* from this region, none is completely banded. They are boldly marked with blue black dorsal bars, which as with *siamensis* disappear with age. The head is oliveaceous or yellowish, and without the defined markings of *Cyanocinctus*.

In considering therefore that my specimens were not *H. tuberculatus*, I agree with Col. Wall, for we are both of the opinion that that name should be a synonym of *Cyanocinctus*. But that my *siamensis* is also a *Cyanocinctus* I most strongly contest. In fact I find them so different that I should not have thought it possible for them to be confused.

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No. XXXVII.—NOTES ON SOME INTERESTING SNAKES RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY.

*Ablabes pavo*, Annandale.

The Society has been fortunate in securing a specimen of this handsome snake, which has hitherto been only known from the Abor Hills, where a single example was obtained on the Upper Rotung, by the 32 Sikh Pioneers while road making. It is described by Dr. Annandale in the Zoological Results of the Abor Expedition. (Records of the Ind. Mus. Vol. VII., pt. 1. Plate.) The present specimen was obtained at Kindat, Chin Hills, Burma, by Mr. J. M. D. Mackenzie. The scale characters agree with Dr. Annandale's description of the Abor specimen; on the present species the 3rd supralabial on one side is divided giving off a small scale wedged

in between the 2nd and 3rd labials. There are 224 ventrals and 72 sub-caudals. Length 362 m.m. Tail 68 m.m.

The colouration is strikingly handsome and has been rightly described by Annandale as a magnificent species.

*Calamaria pavimentala.*

The specimen was presented by Mrs. Jackson, and was obtained at Tura on the Gaw Hills, Assam. The lepidopsis agrees with the description in the fauna of British India. *Reptilia*, p. 282, except in the number of ventrals which is 186 in the present species.

The coloration is a deep iridescent brown above each scale having a lighter mottled centre. The lips are yellowish speckled with brown. The belly is uniform yellow. The pair of yellow spots at the base and another at the end of the tail mentioned by Boulenger are not in evidence in the present specimen.

The marking of the sub-caudals with a dark median line is in agreement with Burmese and Javan forms. The finding of this snake in Assam definitely establishes a record; its occurrence there being hitherto regarded as doubtful.

*Bungarus cœruleus*, color variation.

The snake was presented by Major Shaw, it was taken at Yerawda Poona.

It is distinguished by the complete absence of the white transverse arches which characterise the coloration of the species.

The whole dorsal region is a uniform deep purplish brown, as in *Bungarus lividus*.

On close examination a trace of white may be recognised in two faint irregular longitudinal lines along the flanks formed by the lower borders of the 4th and sometimes 5th transverse row of costals being edged with white.

These lines are not apparent except in close inspection. They are more in evidence on the mid-body and are completely absent on the tail.

*Bungarus cœruleus*. An abnormal specimen.

The specimen was presented by Capt. C. M. Ingoldby, R.A.M.C., and was taken by him in Jullundur, Punjab. The enlargement of the median row of scales so characteristic of the krait is in the present specimen repeatedly interrupted by the breaking up of the median scale into or sometimes 3 separate scales.

The lepidopsis is quite normal till the 48th transverse row of costals is reached here. The median enlarged scale breaks up into 3 scale 3 giving off an extra right and left lateral scale and converting the row into one of 17 instead of the normal 15 scales. The next transverse row is again normal and is followed by one containing 16 scales; in this instance the median scale only breaks up into two, giving an extra scale to the laterals on the right side. Continuing we find the costals arranged in an alternating series of 16 and 17 scale rows with an occasional return to the usual series of 15 rows, this arrangement persisting throughout the entire length of the snake.

In the rows where the costals number 17, the median scale is equal to or sometimes smaller than the laterals; when the number is 16 the enlargement is somewhat maintained.

The arrangement, size and number of the costals being an important feature in the identification of the kraits, this instance of a departure from the normal is perhaps worthy of a record.

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